



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES **MAIDENHAIR SPLEENWORT**

Maidenhair Spleenwort is a perennial with short rhizomes and glabrous, evergreen fronds clustered from the base of the plant. Each frond is 7-35 cm long, and is pinnately divided into numerous pinnae that are arranged alternately on the shiny, reddish-brown rachis of the frond. The naked petioles and central axes tend to persist after the pinnae have fallen; each pinna is 5 mm wide and entire-margined below, but shallowly lobed toward the tip. Spores are borne in 1-4 clusters arranged along the veins on the undersides of the pinnae; the spores are partially enfolded by a thin, white tissue, the indusium. Fronds mature in June-July.

This species can be distinguished from the more common *A. VIRIDE* (syn. *A. TRICHOMANES-RAMOSUM*), by its shiny, reddish-brown leaf stems and evergreen leaves.